(c) whether it is a fact that adequate recorded material even for regular courses is not available and the criteria stipulated in respect of writers is making it impossible for visually handicapped students to find suitable writers to write their papers; and

(d) if so, the measures contemplated to ensure adequate supply of recorded materials and relaxed norms for the writers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the UGC does not have any such scheme, to provide assistance for recorded course material. The UGC has, however, sent a circular to universities to provide writers for visually handicapped students. A writer is also provided to the candidate appearing in the UGC NET who is required to be a graduate but in the subject different from that of candidate. Extra time — 30 minutes — is also provided for each of the two objective type papers and 45 minutes extra time is provided for paper III written exam.

Private educational institutions

1479. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are many private institutions in school education, higher education and professional courses as on today;

(b) if so, the details of the per capita public spending on education on primary school, higher education and professional courses for last three years, year-wise, State-wise and category-wise;

(c) the steps taken, if any, to regulate admissions, fees and quality in school education and higher education including professional courses; and

(d) the number of Government aided, unaided schools and number of private self-financing professional and higher education institutions for the last three years, year-wise, category-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.